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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

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In re Application of:

Ralf Uwe Krauklis

Serial No. 09/464,021

Filed: December 15, 1999

For: System and Method for Managing a
Scalable List of Items for
Display

§ Group Art Unit: 2174

§

§ Examiner: Luu, Sy D

§

§ Atty. Dkt. No.: 5181-53800

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37 C.F.R. § 1.8

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8-25-03

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APPEAL BRIEF

Box AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

Further to the Notice of Appeal filed June 25, 2003, Appellant presents this Appeal Brief. Appellant respectfully requests that this appeal be considered by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The subject application is owned by Sun Microsystems, Inc., a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, and having its principal place of business at 4150 Network Circle, Santa Clara, CA 95054, as evidenced by the assignment recorded at Reel 010704, Frame 0602.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

This appeal is not related to any other appeals.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 19 were present in the original application. Claims 1 – 19 were pending. Claims 1 – 19 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and are the subject of this appeal. A copy of claims 1 – 19, as on appeal (incorporating all amendments), is included in the Appendix hereto.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMEMINTS

No amendments to the claims have been filed subsequent to the final rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Appellant's claimed invention is a system for managing a scalable list of items for display in a display device of a small footprint device. A client program running in a small footprint device may instantiate a list container object. The list container object may then add list item data objects to the list container object. *See* specification, page 4, lines 3 – 9.

The number of list items data objects that can be displayed by the list container object at a given time depends on the size of the list, i.e., the number of "rows" the list container object is configured with. For example, if the list container object maintains ten

list item data objects but is only configured to have four rows, then only a subset of the list item data objects may be displayed. The list container object may maintain a “start index” that specifies which of the list item data objects is currently displayed in the first row of the visible list. *See specification, page 11, lines 1 –13.*

The list container object may interface with a number of item renderer objects. Each list item renderer object may correspond to a row in the displayed list, and may implement code for appropriately displaying a list item data object. Specifically, each list item renderer object is operable to display a list item data object in the user interface, as appropriate for the particular type of that list item data object. For example, for list item data objects representing e-mail messages, the list item renderer objects may retrieve information from the message objects, such as the sender’s name, the message subject, etc., and may then display this information in the user interface. *See specification, page 11, lines 11 – 16 and page 12, lines 2 – 7.*

Appellant’s claimed invention may provide a general framework in which any of various types of objects may be displayed. *See specification, page 4, lines 17 – 20.*

VII. ISSUES

I. Whether claims 1 – 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are unpatentable over Goyal et al. (USPN 5,873,108, hereinafter “Goyal”).

VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For the purposes of this appeal only:

Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, and 18 stand or fall together.

Claims 2 – 4, 8 – 10, 14 – 16, and 19 stand or fall together.

Claims 6 and 12 stand or fall together.

The reasons why each group of claims is believed to be separately patentable are

explained below in the Argument.

VIII. ARGUMENT

A. Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, and 18

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are unpatentable over Goyal (USPN 5,873,108). Appellant asserts that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case that Goyal teaches the system described in Appellant's claim 1.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action dated March 25, 2003, the Examiner asserts that Goyal teaches:

A list container object (*the inherent database containing all lists*) which specifies a corresponding list item data object (*an entry; e.g. entry "Review daily agenda" on the forth row being associated with list item renderer object "A"*) for each list item renderer object (*a particular Tag type e.g. "A" for Appointment as stored in the database*), each list item renderer object (*tag type*) provides associated list item data objects (entries) for display (col. 5, lines 62 – 65; *each list item renderer object may be initiated to display its list item data objects*).

However, Appellant can find no language in the cited passages of Goyal that teaches or suggests a system wherein **“each list item renderer object is executable to display the list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device,”** as recited in Appellant's claim 1.

Goyal teaches: “...the present personal information manager is based on what may be referred to as a tag paradigm, which allows different types of information to be entered and from a single screen display in a consistent manner, and likewise allows different types of information to be retrieved from a single screen display in a consistent manner.” (col 4, lines 15 – 21) Goyal further teaches that “A tag identifies an entry of being of a particular type. For example, a tag denoted by the letter A (or by an appropriate icon) may identify an entry as an appointment.” (col 5, lines 5 – 7) and that “Tags provide a powerful way of both entering and retrieving information from the personal information

manager without entering different operational modes or navigating through a deep hierarchy of screen displays.” (col 5, lines 13 – 17)

Appellant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s contention that the “tag type” of Goyal is equivalent to a list item renderer object as recited in Appellant’s claims. Goyal teaches a method wherein entries associated with a specific tag type are retrieved based on the user’s selection of a specific tag type on the screen of a personal information manner. (col 5, lines 62 – 65) A tag type of Goyal is not a renderer object, and is not executable to display a list item data object. In general, Appellant can find no language in Goyal that teaches or suggests a system wherein “each list item renderer object is *executable to display* the list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device,” as recited in Appellant’s claim 1.

For these reasons, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 1, along with dependent claim 5, patentably distinguishes over Goyal.

Claims 7, 13, and 18 recite features similar to those of claim 1 as discussed above and are thus also believed to distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons, along with their respective dependent claims 11 and 17.

B. Claims 2 – 4, 8 – 10, 14 – 16, and 19

All the arguments given above in regard to claim 1 apply to claim 2. Furthermore, claim 2 recites:

The system of claim 1,

wherein the list container object is executable to instantiate the plurality of list item renderer objects. (Emphasis added)

As described above, the cited art does not teach or suggest a system containing a list item renderer objects. Goyal teaches that a tag identifies an entry as being of a

particular type (col. 5, lines 5 – 6), and that the personal information manager may retrieve entries based on the tag type and display those entries (col. 5, lines 49 – 65 and Fig. 3.) However, Appellant can find no language that teaches or suggests that “the list container object *is executable to instantiate the plurality of list item renderer objects*,” as recited in Appellant’s claim 2, since Appellant can find no language where a tag type itself is actually instantiated.

Accordingly, Goyal does not teach or suggest the features identified above with respect to claim 2. Claims 3 and 4 are dependent on claim 2 and are thus also believed to distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Claims 8, 14 and 19 recite similar features to claim 2 and are thus also believed patentable, as are their dependent claims 9 – 10 and 15 – 16.

C. Claims 6 and 12

All the arguments given above in regard to claim 1 apply to claim 6. Furthermore, claim 6 recites:

The system of claim 1,

wherein each of the plurality of list item renderer objects corresponds to a list row displayed in the display device of the small footprint device;

wherein said each list item renderer object displaying the list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device comprises each list item renderer object displaying the list item data object in the list row corresponding to the list item renderer object.. (Emphasis added)

As described above, the cited art does not teach or suggest a system containing a list item renderer objects. Goyal illustrates that different tag types may reside on different list rows of the display device in Figs. 13 and 14, wherein the first row displays an entry of tag type “T” in Fig. 13, and wherein the first row displays an entry of tag type “L” in

Fig. 14. Accordingly, Appellant can find no language that teaches or suggests a system “wherein each of the plurality of list item renderer objects corresponds to a list row displayed in the display device of the small footprint device,” as recited in Appellant’s claim 6.

Accordingly, Goyal does not teach or suggest the features identified above with respect to claim 6. Claims 12 and 19 recite similar features to claim 6 and are thus also believed to distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

IX. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 – 19 was erroneous, and reversal of the Examiner's decision is respectfully requested.

This Appeal Brief is submitted in triplicate along with the following items:

- Return Receipt Postcard
- Deposit Account Fee Authorization form for the \$320.00 appeal brief fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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X. APPENDIX A

The claims on appeal are as follows.

1. A system for managing a scalable list of items for display, the system comprising:

a small footprint device including a display device and a CPU coupled to a memory;

a client program comprised in the memory of the small footprint device, wherein the client program is executable to instantiate a list container object and add list item data objects to the list container object;

wherein the list container object is executable to specify a corresponding list item data object for each of a plurality of list item renderer objects;

wherein, in response to said list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each list item renderer object, each list item renderer object is executable to display the list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device.

2. The system of claim 1,

wherein the list container object is executable to instantiate the plurality of list item renderer objects.

3. The system of claim 2,

wherein the client program is executable to provide the list container object with information specifying a list item renderer object class;

wherein said list container object instantiating a plurality of list item renderer objects comprises the list container object instantiating a plurality of objects of the list item renderer object class specified by the client program.

4. The system of claim 3,

wherein the list item renderer object class implements an item renderer interface;

wherein the item renderer interface includes a “set data” method to set the list item data object corresponding to a list item renderer object;

wherein said list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each list item renderer object comprises the list container object passing the corresponding list item data object to the “set data” method for each list item renderer object.

5. The system of claim 1,

wherein the list container object maintains a start index specifying the first list item data object currently being displayed;

wherein, in response to user interaction, the list container object is executable to update the start index and specify an updated list item data object corresponding to each of the plurality of list item renderer objects;

wherein, in response to said list container object specifying an updated list item data object corresponding to each list item renderer object, each list item renderer object is executable to display the updated list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device.

6. The system of claim 1,

wherein each of the plurality of list item renderer objects corresponds to a list row displayed in the display device of the small footprint device;

wherein said each list item renderer object displaying the list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device comprises each list item renderer object displaying the list item data object in the list row corresponding to the list item renderer object.

7. A method for managing a scalable list of items for display in a display device of a small footprint device, the method comprising:

a client program comprised in the memory of the small footprint device including a CPU and memory instantiating a list container object and adding list item data objects to the list container object;

the list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each of a plurality of list item renderer objects;

in response to said list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each list item renderer object, each list item renderer object displaying the list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

the list container object instantiating the plurality of list item renderer objects.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

the client program providing the list container object with information specifying a list item renderer object class;

wherein said list container object instantiating a plurality of list item renderer objects comprises the list container object instantiating a plurality of objects of the list item renderer object class specified by the client program.

10. The method of claim 9,

wherein the list item renderer object class implements an item renderer interface;

wherein the item renderer interface includes a “set data” method to set the list item data object corresponding to a list item renderer object;

wherein said list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each list item renderer object comprises the list container object passing the corresponding list item data object to the “set data” method for each list item renderer object.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

the list container object maintaining a start index specifying the first list item data object currently being displayed;

in response to user interaction, the list container object updating the start index and specifying an updated list item data object corresponding to each of the plurality of list item renderer objects;

in response to said list container object specifying an updated list item data object corresponding to each list item renderer object, each list item renderer object displaying the updated list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device.

12. The method of claim 7,

wherein each of the plurality of list item renderer objects corresponds to a list row displayed in the display device of the small footprint device;

wherein said each list item renderer object displaying the list item data object in the display device of the small footprint device comprises each list item renderer object displaying the list item data object in the list row corresponding to the list item renderer object.

13. A system comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU);

memory coupled to the CPU;

a display device;

a client program comprised in the memory, wherein the client program is executable to instantiate a list container object and add list item data objects to the list container object;

wherein the list container object is executable to specify a corresponding list item data object for each of a plurality of list item renderer objects;

wherein, in response to said list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each list item renderer object, each list item renderer object is executable to display the list item data object in the display device.

14. The system of claim 13,

wherein the list container object is executable to instantiate the plurality of list item renderer objects.

15. The system of claim 14,

wherein the client program is executable to provide the list container object with information specifying a list item renderer object class;

wherein said list container object instantiating a plurality of list item renderer objects comprises the list container object instantiating a plurality of objects of the list item renderer object class specified by the client program.

16. The system of claim 15,

wherein the list item renderer object class implements an item renderer interface;

wherein the item renderer interface includes a “set data” method to set the list item data object corresponding to a list item renderer object;

wherein said list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each list item renderer object comprises the list container object passing the corresponding list item data object to the “set data” method for each list item renderer object.

17. The system of claim 13,

wherein the CPU, memory, and display device are included within a small footprint device.

18. A memory medium comprising program instructions which implement:
a list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each of a plurality of list item renderer objects;

in response to said list container object specifying a corresponding list item data object for each list item renderer object, each list item renderer object displaying the list item data object in a display device of a system.

19. The memory medium of claim 18, further comprising program instructions which implement:

the list container object instantiating the plurality of list item renderer objects.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/464,021

Filed: December 15, 1999

Inventor(s):

Ralf Uwe Krauklis

Title: System and Method for
Managing a Scalable List of
Items for Display

§ Examiner: Sy D. Luu
§ Group/Art Unit: 2174
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-53800

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§ Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the
§ date indicated below.

B. Noël Kivlin

Printed Name

August 25, 2003

Signature

Date

FEE AUTHORIZATION

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Attorney Docket No.: 5181-53800

The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any extension fee or other fees which may be necessary to the same account number.

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